



SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Monday, January 24, 2022

Rowlett City Hall

4000 Main Street

Rowlett, TX 75088

Present: Regular members: Chair: Kenneth Williams; Vice Chair: Susan Bell; Virginia Denson, Alberta Reese, Cheryl Smith, Wathenia Clark; Alternates: Dianna Lieberenz, Sharon Pouzar

Absent:

Visitors: Brownie Sherrill, Darrell Test, Larry and Gaylynn Beckham

Staff: Shelly Monroe, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; Pamela Bell, City Council Liaison; Kari Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; Aaron Cleaver, Parks and Recreation Director; Jade Brodnax; Tara Bradley; Lilyanna Morjean

1. The Chair, Kenneth Williams, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Quorum present.
2. Citizen's Input.
Darrell Test expressed a concern in the community for those who live alone, therefore wonders if there is some type of phone network that can be set up as a service for the isolated.
3. Consider approving the minutes from December 20, 2021.
 - A. Alberta Reese made a motion to approve the December 20, 2021 minutes.
 - B. Susan Bell seconded the motion.
 - C. Approved 6 to 0.
4. Public Work Presentation.
Unable to be present, therefore will look to re-schedule.
5. Introduction to NeighborFest. (Sharon Pouzar entered)
 - A. Jade Brodnax with Neighborhood Planning explained a potential new event. The event will address quality of life issues and ways to hear from the community about their needs. A few of the existing events were presented such as the Block Party Trailer, Neighborhood Summit, Scarecrows on Main, etc. Preliminaries for the Neighbor Fest are to address age and housing needs, income and housing needs, transportation networks and walkability, events and programming and culture representation. Members were asked for input on these areas. Key Focus areas are seniors/active older adults, families of all ages and abilities, and single adults. Event planning would include food, drinks, music, and fun; interactive installations that capture thoughts and ideas from the target audience. There would be three events. Each event will have four stations with some educational content. Five ideas: Sit and Relax Circle - spoke with AARP and they coordinate with BetterBlock in setting up seating for seniors; Communal Art Piece; Giant Chalk for short term items; A display board; and Age in Place survey. Some of the



fun events could be pickleball, dance instruction, dominoes, etc. If members have any suggestions to share these please contact them.

6. Senior Program and activity update.
It appears participation is lower this past month which is possibly due to the covid surge. The next Dinner and Murder Mystery event is January 26th at 6:30pm with a following one on February 23rd; the cost is \$15. The next field trip is February 24th to the Dallas World Aquarium for \$30. Valentine's Day party will be held February 14th at the Rowlett Community Centre.
7. Update from City Liaison, Pamela Bell.
 - A. A new gas station in Rowlett was declined by City Council. There was a group advocating against homeowners having 1 door garage versus 2 door garage and City Council declined being involved in this type of situation.
 - B. The last City Council meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum caused by covid cases.
 - C. A new Associate Judge has been appointed for Judge Liston
 - D. Reminded about pet adoptions available at the Animal Shelter.
 - E. Blake Margolis resigned from City Council to run in the mayor election. City Council Place 2, 4, and 6 will be on the ballot, as well as filling the vacancy for Place 1. The filing closes in mid-February.
 - F. Four council members (B Sherill, M Brown, M Grubisich, P Bell) participated in GISD Tinsel & Trivia and Rowlett won the smartest city award. Other participants were the City of Garland and the City of Sachse.
 - G. Applications are still open for the Bond Committee.
 - H. A company is interested in North Shore area off Merritt Road and plan to meet with citizens (public meeting).
 - I. Any issues with I-30 are to be addressed with TxDot, not City of Rowlett, which is the same situation for Highway 66. City of Rowlett only oversees the medians.
 - J. A small event on Martin Luther King holiday was held but there didn't appear to be much promotion of this event. The event was sponsored by Rowlett Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission.
 - K. Arts & Humanities have year 2022 calendars, and these are free.
8. Follow up on discussion of holding a Resource Fair.
Board members agreed holding the fair in the gym is more convenient and spacious than in the activity rooms. This may allow up to 45 vendors versus 40. Some of the ideas for Resource Fair vendors are: 1) Alberta will search for vendor on after life arrangements and insurance options which will include a neutral party for Medicare; Sharon will look for vendor on social security issues and possibly an RV vendor; 3) Virginia will find someone on Veteran Services and funerals for veterans; 4) Wathenia is will seek someone on retirement communities; 5) Other ideas are donor care, financial planning to include investments, housing, transportation and program/activities. A list will be compiled then prioritize for the invites. The Resource Fair will be held September 13, 2022.
9. Follow up on the Say No to Scams seminar held January 11, 2022.



There were 26 attendees. There was a mixture of information at varying levels. Members shared how they are helping to promote the seminars.

10. Follow up on scheduled seminars to be held February 8th and March 8th.
 - A. The flyer for February seminar Understanding Alzheimer's was emailed to board members on Friday. Elizabeth Crider with Iris Memory Care is the speaker.
 - B. Ashleigh Knight with FOX Rehabilitation will be the speaker for health and fitness. They provide physical and occupational therapy services for adults in senior living centers, as well as privately in homes.
 - C. Since there will be no Health Fair in April, members will discuss further whether to hold a seminar in April.
11. AARP Livable Communities Age-Friendly Action Plan update.

The Action Plan is completed and was submitted to AARP for a courtesy review. The plan will be presented to City Council on February 15, 2022. The Senior Advisory Board should be present to support their recommendation to City Council. Stakeholder meetings will resume to begin the implementation phase.
12. No Senior Concerns.

Sharon Pouzar inquired if seniors want to volunteer to work for early voting who would the individual contact. Dallas County Office.
13. No Public announcements.
 - A. Kenneth Williams shared information about primary elections coming up, and the deadlines for voting. In Texas a person must apply annually for mail in voting.
 - B. Little Sweetheart Dance will be held February 5th from 7p - 9p at the Rowlett Community Centre.
14. No Members of the board requested topics for future meetings.
15. Virginia made a motion to adjourn at 11:27 am. Cheryl Smith seconded the motion. All those present approved.

Kenneth Williams, Chair

Aaron Cleaver, Parks & Recreation Director